



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**June 17, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Amy Gyau-Moyer, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan Jelani Murrain, Rosemary Payne and Fabienne Santel.

Members Absent: Elliott Brown, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Brittne Jackson, Travis Gayles, and Cara Grant.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Susan Emory, Brittany Foushee, and Chris Rogers.

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><b>Meeting call to Order and Welcome - <i>Desiree de la Torre</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. The COH Chair welcomed members and provided an update on the goals for the meeting.</li> <li>Upcoming meetings are on July 15<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will take place virtually via Zoom. The COH will not meet in the month of August.</li> </ul> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Amy Gyau-Moyer to approve the May 20, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jelani Murrain. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize May meeting minutes on COH webpage- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Health Officer's Report – <i>Dr. Chris Rogers provided an update in lieu of Dr. Travis Gayles</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community transmission levels in the County continue to be among the best in the state. The most recent test positivity averages have been in the 0.4-0.45 range, rates between 0.7-1, and our daily new cases in the 5-10 range. The presence of variant strains will continue to be monitored; the Alpha (UK) variant continues to be the predominant strain in Maryland; there have been reports of the Delta (Indian) variant, but the % of cases is not as significant as seen in other countries, such as the UK.</li> <li>The Governor is lifting the state declaration of emergency effective June 30. All Covid related procedures and parameters, including face coverings, will be lifted. Individual jurisdictions can make their own determinations of such requirements after such date, including requirements of coverings in schools, etc. The county is currently reviewing its next steps and will make any announcements related to such adjustments, if any, before the conclusion of the emergency declaration.</li> <li>County vaccine rates continue to outpace the state and region. As of last week, Montgomery County had the highest rates of vaccination, particularly amongst 12-18 yo, in the country for counties with &gt;300k residents (CDC). We continue to use</li> </ol>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>epidemiological and surveillance data to identify areas of lower uptake to target vaccine efforts. The County will be consolidating its vaccine clinics into 3 pods, 1 in up-county, 1 in mid-county and 1 down county areas. Currently, there is no reportable information regarding access for those under 12 yo, or booster shots. Please stay tuned. Novavax has released preliminary data that suggests its vaccine is 90% effective at preventing Covid, and 100% effective at preventing Covid fatalities. No announcement has been made on an FDA hearing/authorization.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Healthy Montgomery is continuing the Public Health Services Community Needs Assessment process. Data will be forthcoming at the conclusion of both the quantitative and qualitative components.</li> <li>5. Dr. Liu and his team are working on an updated status of health report for the County. The release date of the report is pending.</li> <li>6. The County will be pivoting attention to post-Covid planning, a continuation of the work that was started pre-Covid, in the space of integration of social determinants of health into service delivery, modernization of public health infrastructure, and implementation of a health in all policies approach across county government. There will continue to be ample opportunities for input from the COH on these topics.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Officer Elections – Nominating Committee</b></p> <p>Candidates for the COH Officer elections were presented by the COH Nominating Committee. Candidates expressed their interest in the Chair and Vice Chair positions.</p> <p>A link to vote for new officers was shared via Zoom chat and will also be shared following the meeting. Voting will be conducted anonymously.</p>	<p>Provide Officer Election link to COH members for voting – <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Workgroup Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>Communicable Disease Workgroup- Brent Berger</b> The Communicable Disease workgroup met with Emily Brown the Program Manager from the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. The workgroup would like to invite Emily Brown to speak with the larger Commission on opportunities to support the County’s mission on Ending the HIV Epidemic.</p> <p>Sarah Emami shared information on the Pride in the Plaza Event on Sunday June 27th 1-8PM. Details will be shared following the meeting.</p> <p><b>School Health Workgroup- Alana Aronin</b> Members from the School health workgroup met and discussed school health and school health clinics. They discussed resources for back to school. They are also shifting their focus to mental health and STI prevention among school aged children.</p> <p><b>Racial Equity Workgroup- Amy Gyau-Moyer</b> The Racial Equity workgroup met and reevaluated their goals. They plan to do additional research on the pressing issues in the County to refocus. They would like to have a strategic plan to be able to line up guest speakers for upcoming meetings.</p> <p><b>Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup- Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire</b> The Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup connected with Dr. Rogers and Dr. Liu on data modernization effort in the County to understand the plan for bolstering evaluation capacity. They drafted a letter to support these efforts and will be meeting with the</p>	<p>Meet with Workgroup Prior to Next COH Meeting- <i>All Members</i></p>

<p>program staff for the health care for the uninsured program. They would like to consider bringing in Tara Clemons, program manager for Health Care for the Uninsured programs, to be a guest speaker at a future COH meeting.</p> <p><b>Governance Workgroup-</b> <i>Desiree de la Torre, Jessica Kronstadt</i> Over the past few months, the Governance group has met independently with all members will be looking into how to clarify the roles and actions of the Commissioners. The goal is to streamline the work and operations of the COH.</p>	
<p><b>CHNA Advisory Committee Update – Dr. Chris Rogers</b></p> <p>Healthy Montgomery staff and CHNA Advisory Committee members provided an update on the CHNA progress. They are in process of reaching out to networks to complete the Environmental Scan of Resources which will remain open until July 30<sup>th</sup>. A Dental Environmental Scan has also been added to the CHNA. The qualitative and quantitative assessments are underway for primary data collection.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Liaisons Update</b></p> <p><b>Latino Health Initiative (LHI) – Marcela Campoli</b> LHI has been hosting open vaccination clinics in community centers. The demand has been very high at their specific mobile sites.</p> <p><b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) – Sarah Emami</b> An agreement has been made on the new charter. Edits have been made to clarify that the services MCAB supports include a range of safety net services not limited to the clinics. MCAB will be trying to facilitate the work of their committees. They will also be working towards solutions on how to best track the work that they are doing.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Advisory Council – Jessica Kronstadt</b> The Mental Health Advisory Council is focused on getting advice from the legislative affairs staff about advocating to Maryland state legislature.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Annual Retreat Planning</b></p> <p>The retreat will be held during the September meeting. Rosemary Payne and Sarah Emami expressed interest in joining the Retreat Planning Committee. Members interested in joining the committee should contact Vanessa Kachipande.</p> <p>Guest speakers will need to be contacted soon to confirm their attendance.</p> <p>A Commissioner noted that the retreat date in 2021 coincides with Yom Kippur so considerations should be made in regard to moving the date.</p>	Send notification with interest in the Retreat Committee to Vanessa Kachipande via email- <i>All COH Members</i>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>National Academy of Science and Medicine released a report The Future of Nursing 2020-2030. Also, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP had a summit that aligned with the COHs discussion on health equity and school health nurses. Ms. Rosemary Payne will plan to share more of this as it becomes available.</p>	

<p>Ms. Kachipande prompted COH members to share their workgroup reports for inclusion in the annual report.</p> <p>As the fiscal year ends, members eligible for reapplying will be invited to reapply. COH members should also consider their interest in joining the membership committee.</p>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	N/A